



ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE

November 5, 2001

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

Matt Bettenhausen
Homeland Security Director

This is the first "Illinois Homeland Security Update." Plans are to distribute the update on a weekly basis assuming there is relevant information to disseminate. The goal is to communicate with local government officials, emergency service providers and citizens to ensure they have the latest information about what is being done to make our state as safe as possible.

Governor Ryan's first Homeland Security Regional Training Seminars were presented last week in Springfield, Peoria, and Kankakee with more than 500 people attending. The purpose of the seminars is to provide an overview of terrorism preparedness in Illinois and to answer questions from the public and local first responders. A total of 16 sessions will be presented, with four of the sessions being held this week at the dates and times listed below. Information on future sessions can be found on the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) web site (www.state.il.us/iema) and reservations may be made by calling 1-800-247-5010.

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Location</u>
November 5, 2001 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Carbondale 200 South Illinois Avenue	Civic Center
November 7, 2001 1-5 p.m.	Wheaton 924 College Avenue	Wheaton College Billy Graham Center Barrows Auditorium
November 8, 2001 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	South Holland 15800 South State	S. Suburban College Performing Arts Center
November 9, 2001	Milan	Milan Community

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Camden Park & Route 67

Center

- Governor Ryan ordered Illinois National Guard troops on Friday to take a more visible presence at Illinois Nuclear Plants, joining security measures already in place. The Governor said that the enhanced visible presence will last throughout the period that U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft indicated American citizens should be on a heightened state of vigilance. "I want to assure everyone that we have not been given any warnings about a planned attack on our state or our nuclear facilities," Governor Ryan said. "However, I want Illinoisans to know that we are constantly reviewing our safety measures and will continue to make any enhancements needed. The visible deployment of the National Guard is simply another way to show that we are prepared to address any dangers."
- The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) at IEMA is being partially staffed 24 hours a day because of the current threat level. In addition, all agencies are reporting to the SEOC for daily intelligence briefings. Information from the briefing that can be made public will be included in these weekly security updates.
- The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and other state agencies continue to receive daily inquiries from first responders, hospitals, medical providers, health departments, and the general public regarding recommendations for handling suspicious packages and prophylactic treatment protocols. These protocols are posted on the IEMA and IDPH web sites.
- As of October 30, more than 1,100 samples for anthrax testing have been received by the FBI and sent to IDPH laboratories in Chicago and Springfield. More than half of these samples have been tested so far, based on prioritization by the FBI, and all results have been negative for anthrax.
- As we enter the flu season, it is worth pointing out that nationally there are millions of cases of

influenza-like illnesses each year and there have been relatively few anthrax cases. In the absence of a credible threat such as a lab-confirmed exposure, the odds are overwhelmingly against individuals contracting anthrax.

- On October 31, the Illinois Mobile Emergency Response Team (IMERT) and Department of Public Health staff presented a four-hour overview on Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) for physicians, nurses, and EMTs in Chicago. The training was sponsored by the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council and the Illinois Hospital Healthsystems Association. More than 200 medical providers registered for the session.
- On October 31, the IMERT and DPH staff presented a one hour-condensed overview on Weapons of mass destruction for hospital chief executive officers (CEOs). The training was sponsored by the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council and the Illinois Hospital Healthsystems Association. More than 50 hospital CEOs registered for the session.
- The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) is maintaining contact with the operators of public water supply systems about the need to continue increased security at their facilities. It should be noted that water treatment facilities are designed to produce safe drinking water and already have many built-in safeguards to protect the water systems. It would be difficult for terrorists to use our water systems as a vehicle for a large-scale attack.
- Since September 11, the American Red Cross has provided hands-on training for hundreds of Red Cross staff and volunteers by sending them to New York, Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, and New Jersey to assist victims and families affected by the terrorist events, identifying and securing additional vendors to assist in the delivery of Mass Care, daily monitoring of available blood supply through the national Red Cross blood inventory management system, and publishing a multilingual domestic preparedness brochure, providing the public with some basic tips to prepare families and communities and to develop their confidence in how to respond. Copies

of the "preparedness" brochure can be obtained by contacting your local Red Cross chapter or IEMA.

- The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) has been meeting regularly with the NRC and Exelon (the parent company for the nuclear facilities in our state) regarding increased security measures at all Illinois nuclear sites. IDNS conducts regular exercises at all nuclear sites in Illinois.
- As part of an increase in security at the State Capitol in Springfield, visitors are now required to show a photo ID and any bags or containers may be inspected. The passenger area of all vehicles entering the Capitol grounds will be inspected. Security officers will also inspect all cargo type vehicles and randomly inspect the trunks of other vehicles.
- Security at all state buildings has been enhanced, including the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago. Other facilities where security was increased include Illinois National Guard facilities and state correctional facilities.
- The Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics has been in regular contact with public and general aviation airports regarding security measures.
- The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has been conducting briefings on a daily, or as needed, basis to 550 fire departments based on the State Emergency Operations Center activity. Any fire department not receiving these briefings may get on the list by providing their email address to OSFM.

As a result of our nation being placed on high alert after the September 11 attacks, a range of security measures has been put in place by the Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois National Guard, and Illinois Commerce Commission including: reviewing contingency plans to ensure security of our highways, bridges, and railroads; taking extra steps to protect lakes and rivers vital to water supplies and near nuclear facilities are secure; and cross-referencing FAA aerial application registrations with IDOT aerial applicator (crop duster) licenses.

A part of the security measures include guarding our food supply. The Illinois Department of Agriculture conducted a "Foreign Animal Disease" exercise in Macoupin County Oct. 30. Decontamination and containment methods were exercised.